

Message Text

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EXDIS, TOSEC 1021

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MATERIAL: BIO FOR POSSIBLE PARIS STOP

FOR S/S ONLY (CONTINGENCY PAPER)

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A BIOGRAPHY OF PRESIDENT-ELECT VALERY
GISCARD D'ESTAING (VAHL-ER-EE ZHEES-KAR' DEH-STAHNG):

2. GISCARD IS A GRADUATE OF BOTH THE ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE
AND THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION, TWO OF THE MOST
PRESTIGIOUS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN FRANCE..THE FORTY-
EIGHT YEAR OLD GISCARD IS PATRICIAN, BRILLIANT, DY-
NAMIC AND AMBITIOUS. HE HAS A REPUTATION FOR TOTAL HON-
ESTY AND INTEGRITY.

3. THROUGHOUT HIS POLITICAL CAREER GISCARD HAS ADROITLY
STEERED A COURSE OF SEMI-INDEPENDENCE FROM THE GAULLISTS
WHILE KEEPING HIS INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PARTY WITHIN
THE MAJORITY, EVEN GOING SO FAR AS TO CRITICIZE DE
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GAULLE IN 1967 FOR HIS "SOLITARY" MANNER OF RULING. HIS

RESPECT FOR INDEPENDENCE AND INTELLECTUAL RIGOR, PERHAPS A VESTIGE OF HIS TRAINING, HAS REPEATEDLY LED HIM TO CALL FOR THE CREATION OF A VIABLE, NON-COMMUNIST OPPOSITION. GISCARD IS A SUPERB TECHNOCRAT WITH AN AWESOME CAPACITY FOR DENSE, STATISTIC-FILLED SPEECHES APPARENTLY DELIVERED FROM MEMORY.

4. GISCARD'S CAREER HAS BEEN ALMOST ENTIRELY IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE, WITH TWO LONG TERMS OF SERVICE AS FINANCE MINISTER (1962-66 AND 1969 TO DATE). THUS HE IS IDENTIFIED IN THE MINDS OF THE FRENCH PUBLIC WITH BOTH THE SUCCESSES AND THE FAILURES OF THE FRENCH ECONOMY. RECENTLY HE HAS PRESIDED OVER A PERIOD OF RAPID PRICE INFLATION. GISCARD HAS HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELDS OF MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICY.

5. GISCARD ENJOYS THE USUAL SPORTS OF THE NEW FRENCH ARISTOCRACY: HE SKIS, HUNTS, PILOTS HIS OWN PLANE AND IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC MEMBER OF SEVERAL PARISIAN POLO AND TENNIS CLUBS. HE SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH. RUSH

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